## REMARKS

Claims 1-75 are pending in the application. Claims 1-3, 6, 8, 9, 12-16, 19, 21, 22, 25-27, 29, 30, 32-34, 36, 38-40, 43, 45, 46, 50-54, 57, 59, 60, 63-65, 67, 68, 70-72 and 74 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by Bodin et al. Claims 4, 17, 28, 41, 55 and 66 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Bodin in view of Gavrilovich. Claims 5, 18, 42 and 56 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Bodin in view of Quick, Jr. Claims 10, 23, 47 and 61 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Bodin in view of Raith et al. Claims 7, 11, 20, 24, 31, 35, 37, 44, 48, 49, 58, 62, 69, 73 and 75 were objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. Claims 7, 11, 20, 24, 31, 35, 37, 44, 48, 49, 58, 62, 69, 73 and 75 have been amended into independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. Entry of the amendments, reexamination, and reconsideration of the application in view of the following remarks is requested.

The present invention operates in a system comprising a network and at least one mobile station (MS), wherein the network enables communications with the MSs. The present invention is directed to rescuing one or more MSs having connections with the network that have become potentially failing connections. To rescue MSs, the network must first identify the MSs having potentially failing connections. Once identified, the network transmits a forward multiple-access rescue channel (RC-MA), which includes a rescue channel multiple-access synchronization message (RC-MAS). The RC-MAS comprises MS identification and handoff information specific to each of the one or more MSs having potentially failing connections. Once the MSs having potentially failing connections receive the RC-MA, those MSs are handed off in accordance with the MS identification and handoff information. Thus, the RC-MA is used temporarily until the MSs having potentially failing connections can be handed off to another regular channel.

Alternatively, the network may identify MSs in need of handoff. Once identified, the network transmits a forward multiple-access handoff channel (HC-MA), which includes a handoff channel multiple-access synchronization message (HC-MAS). The HC-MAS comprises MS identification and handoff information specific to each of the one or more MSs having in need of handoff. Once the MSs in need of handoff receive the HC-MA, those MSs are handed off in accordance with the MS identification and handoff information. Thus, the HC-MA is used temporarily until the MSs in need of handoff can be handed off to another regular channel.

Claims 1-3, 6, 8, 9, 12-16, 19, 21, 22, 25-27, 29, 30, 32-34, 36, 38-40, 43, 45, 46, 50-54, 57, 59, 60, 63-65, 67, 68, 70-72 and 74 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by Bodin. This rejection is respectfully traversed.

Bodin contains no disclosure at all related to a temporary rescue or handoff channel. Bodin only teaches handing off a call from one regular channel to another, and does not teach or even suggest using a temporary rescue channel. Although the Examiner states that Bodin discloses "transmitting a rescue channel (Bodin see especially col 3, lines 31-35)," those statements only disclose the reservation of voice channels for handoff purposes, and have nothing to do with a temporary rescue or handoff channel. Bodin is directed to a system for prioritizing handoff requests for a target cell over new cell requests for that same target cell, and if no voice channels reserved for handoff are available in the target cell, placing the handoff requests into a queue until a voice channel in the target cell becomes available. Thus, although Bodin reserves voice channels for handoff, Bodin does not provide temporary rescue or handoff channels. Instead, MSs are simply handed off from one regular voice channel to another available regular voice channel.

Furthermore, Bodin fails to disclose a shared (multiple-access) rescue or handoff channel that multiple mobile stations (MSs) may receive and monitor at the same time. Although the Examiner states that "Bodin would have a specific rescue channel for each mobile (Bodin see especially col 6, lines 18-28)," as noted above, Bodin does not disclose, teach or suggest a rescue

or handoff channel of any type, including a temporary rescue or handoff channel that can be accessed by multiple MSs at the same time. In contrast to Bodin, the rescue channel of the present invention comprises MS identification and handoff information specific to each of the one or more MSs having potentially failing connections, and may be accessed by all of the MSs having potentially failing connections. Because Bodin does not disclose, teach or suggest a rescue or handoff channel of any type, Bodin also fails to disclose, teach or suggest the handoff of the MS from a rescue channel back to normal channels.

Claims 1-3, 6, 8, 9, 12-16, 19, 21, 22, 25-27, 29, 30, 32-34, 36, 38-40, 43, 45, 46, 50-54, 57, 59, 60, 63-65, 67, 68, 70-72 and 74 contain limitations that are not taught or suggested in Bodin. For example, claim 1 recites "transmitting a forward multiple-access rescue channel (RC-MA) from the network, the RC-MA including a rescue channel multiple-access synchronization message (RC-MAS) comprising MS identification and handoff information specific to each of the one or more MSs having potentially failing connections" and "receiving the RC-MA at the one or more MSs having potentially failing connections." Claim 14 recites "transmitting a forward multiple-access rescue channel (RC-MA) from the network, the RC-MA including a rescue channel multiple-access synchronization message (RC-MAS) comprising MS identification and handoff information specific to each of the one or more MSs having potentially failing connections." Claim 26 recites "receiving the RC-MA at the MS having the potentially failing connection." Claim 34 recites "transmitting a forward multiple-access handoff channel (HC-MA) from the network, the HC-MA including a handoff channel multiple-access synchronization message (HC-MAS) comprising MS identification and handoff information specific to each of the one or more MSs in need of handoff" and "receiving the HC-MA at one or more MSs in need of handoff." Claim 36 recites "transmitting the HC-MA from the network, the HC-MA including a handoff channel multiple-access synchronization message (HC-MAS) comprising MS identification and handoff information specific to each of the one or more MSs in need of handoff." Claim 38 recites "transmitting a forward multiple-access rescue channel

(RC-MA) from the network, the RC-MA including a rescue channel multiple-access synchronization message (RC-MAS) comprising MS identification and handoff information specific to each of the one or more MSs having potentially failing connections," and "one or more MSs, each MS having a MS processor programmed for receiving the RC-MA." Claim 52 recites "transmitting a forward multiple-access rescue channel (RC-MA), the RC-MA including a rescue channel multiple-access synchronization message (RC-MAS) comprising MS identification and handoff information specific to each of the one or more MSs having potentially failing connections." Claim 64 recites "a MS processor programmed for receiving the RC-MA at the MS if the MS has a potentially failing connection." Claim 72 recites "transmitting a forward multiple-access handoff channel (HC-MA) from the network, the HC-MA including a handoff channel multiple-access synchronization message (HC-MAS) comprising MS identification and handoff information specific to each of the one or more MSs in need of handoff," and "receiving the HC-MA at one or more MSs in need of handoff." Claim 74 recites "transmitting the HC-MA from the network, the HC-MA including a handoff channel multiple-access synchronization message (HC-MAS) comprising MS identification and handoff information specific to each of the one or more MSs in need of handoff."

Because claims 1, 14, 26, 34, 36, 38, 52, 64, 72 and 74 contain limitations that are not disclosed, taught or suggested in Bodin, the rejection of those claims under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by Bodin is respectfully traversed.

Furthermore, because claims 2, 3, 6, 8, 9, 12 and 13 depend from claim 1, claims 15, 16, 19, 21, 22 and 25 depend from claim 14, claims 27, 29, 30, 32 and 33 depend from claim 26, claims 39, 40, 43, 45, 46, 50 and 51 depend from claim 38, claims 53, 54, 57, 59, 60 and 63 depend from claim 52, claims 65, 67, 68, 70 and 71 depend from claim 64, the rejection of those claims under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by Bodin is also respectfully traversed.

Claims 4, 17, 28, 41, 55 and 66 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Bodin in view of Gavrilovich. This rejection is respectfully traversed.

As noted above, Bodin does not disclose, teach or suggest a temporary rescue or handoff channel, a shared (multiple-access) rescue or handoff channel that multiple mobile stations (MSs) may receive and monitor at the same time, or the handoff of the MS from a rescue channel back to normal channels. Gavrilovich also does not disclose, teach or suggest a temporary rescue or handoff channel, a shared (multiple-access) rescue or handoff channel that multiple mobile stations (MSs) may receive and monitor at the same time, or the handoff of the MS from a rescue channel back to normal channels. Thus, even if Gavrilovich teaches orthogonal coding as suggested by the Examiner, neither Gavrilovich nor Bodin discloses, teaches or suggests a temporary rescue or handoff channel, a shared (multiple-access) rescue or handoff channel that multiple mobile stations (MSs) may receive and monitor at the same time, or the handoff of the MS from a rescue channel back to normal channels.

Claims 4, 17, 28, 41, 55 and 66 contain limitations that are not taught or suggested in Bodin or Gavrilovich. For example, claim 4 depends from claim 1, and thus recites "transmitting a forward multiple-access rescue channel (RC-MA) from the network, the RC-MA including a rescue channel multiple-access synchronization message (RC-MAS) comprising MS identification and handoff information specific to each of the one or more MSs having potentially failing connections" and "receiving the RC-MA at the one or more MSs having potentially failing connections." Claim 17 depends from claim 14, and thus recites "transmitting a forward multiple-access rescue channel (RC-MA) from the network, the RC-MA including a rescue channel multiple-access synchronization message (RC-MAS) comprising MS identification and handoff information specific to each of the one or more MSs having potentially failing connections." Claim 28 depends from claim 26, and thus recites "receiving the RC-MA at the MS having the potentially failing connection." Claim 41 depends from claim 38, and thus recites "transmitting a forward multiple-access rescue channel (RC-MA) from the network, the RC-MA including a rescue channel multiple-access synchronization message (RC-MAS) comprising MS identification and handoff information specific to each of the one or more

MSs having potentially failing connections," and "one or more MSs, each MS having a MS processor programmed for receiving the RC-MA." Claim 55 depends from claim 52, and thus recites "transmitting a forward multiple-access rescue channel (RC-MA), the RC-MA including a rescue channel multiple-access synchronization message (RC-MAS) comprising MS identification and handoff information specific to each of the one or more MSs having potentially failing connections." Claim 66 depends from claim 64, and thus recites "a MS processor programmed for receiving the RC-MA at the MS if the MS has a potentially failing connection."

Because claims 4, 17, 28, 41, 55 and 66 contain limitations that are not disclosed, taught or suggested by either Bodin or Gavrilovich, alone or in combination, the rejection of those claims under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Bodin in view of Gavrilovich is respectfully traversed.

Claims 5, 18, 42 and 56 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Bodin in view of Quick, Jr. This rejection is respectfully traversed.

As noted above, Bodin does not disclose, teach or suggest a temporary rescue or handoff channel, a shared (multiple-access) rescue or handoff channel that multiple mobile stations (MSs) may receive and monitor at the same time, or the handoff of the MS from a rescue channel back to normal channels. Quick, Jr. also does not disclose, teach or suggest a temporary rescue or handoff channel, a shared (multiple-access) rescue or handoff channel that multiple mobile stations (MSs) may receive and monitor at the same time, or the handoff of the MS from a rescue channel back to normal channels. Thus, even if Quick, Jr. teaches code mask generation as suggested by the Examiner, neither Quick, Jr. nor Bodin discloses, teaches or suggests a temporary rescue or handoff channel, a shared (multiple-access) rescue or handoff channel that multiple mobile stations (MSs) may receive and monitor at the same time, or the handoff of the MS from a rescue channel back to normal channels.

Claims 5, 18, 42 and 56 contain limitations that are not taught or suggested in Bodin or Quick, Jr. For example, claim 5 depends from claim 1, and thus recites "transmitting a forward multiple-access rescue channel (RC-MA) from the network, the RC-MA including a rescue channel multiple-access synchronization message (RC-MAS) comprising MS identification and handoff information specific to each of the one or more MSs having potentially failing connections" and "receiving the RC-MA at the one or more MSs having potentially failing connections." Claim 18 depends from claim 14, and thus recites "transmitting a forward multiple-access rescue channel (RC-MA) from the network, the RC-MA including a rescue channel multiple-access synchronization message (RC-MAS) comprising MS identification and handoff information specific to each of the one or more MSs having potentially failing connections." Claim 42 depends from claim 38, and thus recites "transmitting a forward multiple-access rescue channel (RC-MA) from the network, the RC-MA including a rescue channel multiple-access synchronization message (RC-MAS) comprising MS identification and handoff information specific to each of the one or more MSs having potentially failing connections," and "one or more MSs, each MS having a MS processor programmed for receiving the RC-MA." Claim 56 depends from claim 52, and thus recites "transmitting a forward multiple-access rescue channel (RC-MA), the RC-MA including a rescue channel multiple-access synchronization message (RC-MAS) comprising MS identification and handoff information specific to each of the one or more MSs having potentially failing connections."

Because claims 5, 18, 42 and 56 contain limitations that are not disclosed, taught or suggested by either Bodin or Quick, Jr., alone or in combination, the rejection of those claims under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Bodin in view of Quick, Jr. is respectfully traversed.

Claims 10, 23, 47 and 61 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Bodin in view of Raith. This rejection is respectfully traversed.

As noted above, Bodin does not disclose, teach or suggest a temporary rescue or handoff channel, a shared (multiple-access) rescue or handoff channel that multiple mobile stations (MSs) may receive and monitor at the same time, or the handoff of the MS from a rescue channel back to normal channels. Raith also does not disclose, teach or suggest a temporary rescue or handoff channel, a shared (multiple-access) rescue or handoff channel that multiple mobile stations (MSs) may receive and monitor at the same time, or the handoff of the MS from a rescue channel back to normal channels. Thus, even if Raith teaches code mask generation as suggested by the Examiner, neither Raith nor Bodin discloses, teaches or suggests a temporary rescue or handoff channel, a shared (multiple-access) rescue or handoff channel that multiple mobile stations (MSs) may receive and monitor at the same time, or the handoff of the MS from a rescue channel back to normal channels.

Claims 10, 23, 47 and 61 contain limitations that are not taught or suggested in Bodin or Raith. For example, claim 10 depends from claim 1, and thus recites "transmitting a forward multiple-access rescue channel (RC-MA) from the network, the RC-MA including a rescue channel multiple-access synchronization message (RC-MAS) comprising MS identification and handoff information specific to each of the one or more MSs having potentially failing connections" and "receiving the RC-MA at the one or more MSs having potentially failing connections." Claim 23 depends from claim 14, and thus recites "transmitting a forward multiple-access rescue channel (RC-MA) from the network, the RC-MA including a rescue channel multiple-access synchronization message (RC-MAS) comprising MS identification and handoff information specific to each of the one or more MSs having potentially failing connections." Claim 47 depends from claim 38, and thus recites "transmitting a forward multiple-access rescue channel (RC-MA) from the network, the RC-MA including a rescue channel multiple-access synchronization message (RC-MAS) comprising MS identification and handoff information specific to each of the one or more MSs having potentially failing connections," and "one or more MSs, each MS having a MS processor programmed for receiving

the RC-MA." Claim 61 depends from claim 52, and thus recites "transmitting a forward multiple-access rescue channel (RC-MA), the RC-MA including a rescue channel multiple-access synchronization message (RC-MAS) comprising MS identification and handoff information specific to each of the one or more MSs having potentially failing connections."

Because claims 10, 23, 47 and 61 contain limitations that are not disclosed, taught or suggested by either Bodin or Raith, alone or in combination, the rejection of those claims under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Bodin in view of Raith is respectfully traversed.

Claims 7, 11, 20, 24, 31, 35, 37, 44, 48, 49, 58, 62, 69, 73 and 75 were objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. Claims 7, 11, 20, 24, 31, 35, 37, 44, 48, 49, 58, 62, 69, 73 and 75 have been amended into independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims, and thus it is submitted that these claims are now allowable.

Attached hereto is a marked-up version of the changes made to the specification and claims by the current amendment. The attached page is captioned "**VERSION WITH MARKINGS TO SHOW CHANGES MADE**".

In the unlikely event that the transmittal letter is separated from this document and the Patent Office determines that an extension and/or other relief is required, Applicant petitions for any required relief including extensions of time and authorizes the Assistant Commissioner to charge the cost of such petitions and/or other fees due in connection with the filing of this document to **Deposit Account No. 03-1952** referencing docket no. 440402000400.

Respectfully submitted,

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## VERSION WITH MARKINGS TO SHOW CHANGES MADE

**In the Claims:**

Claims 7, 11, 20, 24, 31, 35, 37, 44, 48, 49, 58, 62, 69, 73 and 75 have been amended as follows:

7. (Amended) [The method as recited in claim 6, further including ]In a system comprising a network and at least one mobile station (MS) for enabling communications with the at least one MS, a method for rescuing one or more MSs having connections with the network that have become potentially failing connections, comprising:

identifying the one or more MSs having potentially failing connections;

transmitting a forward multiple-access rescue channel (RC-MA) from the network, the RC-MA including a rescue channel multiple-access synchronization message (RC-MAS) comprising MS identification and handoff information specific to each of the one or more MSs having potentially failing connections and a rescue channel handoff message (RC-HO) comprising a new active set specific to each of the one or more MSs having potentially failing connections for enabling the MSs having potentially failing connections to continue the connection;

receiving the RC-MA at the one or more MSs having potentially failing connections;

handing off the one or more MSs having potentially failing connections in accordance with the MS identification and handoff information; and

identifying one or more sectors that were receiving a particular MS having a potentially failing connection with a higher signal strength than other sectors, and specifying those one or more sectors in the new active set specific to that particular MS.

11. (Amended) [The method as recited in claim 1, further including ]In a system comprising a network and at least one mobile station (MS) for enabling communications with the at least one MS, a method for rescuing one or more MSs having connections with the network that have become potentially failing connections, comprising:

identifying the one or more MSs having potentially failing connections;

transmitting a forward multiple-access rescue channel (RC-MA) from the network, the RC-MA including a rescue channel multiple-access synchronization message (RC-MAS) comprising MS identification and handoff information specific to each of the one or more MSs having potentially failing connections;

receiving the RC-MA from multiple sectors simultaneously at the one or more MSs having potentially failing connections; and

handing off the one or more MSs having potentially failing connections in accordance with the MS identification and handoff information.

20. (Amended) [The method as recited in claim 19, further including ]In a system comprising a network and at least one mobile station (MS) for enabling communications with the at least one MS, one or more MSs capable of receiving a forward multiple-access rescue channel (RC-MA) and continuing connections that have become potentially failing connections, a method for assisting in rescuing one or more MSs having potentially failing connections, comprising:

identifying the one or more MSs having potentially failing connections;

transmitting a forward multiple-access rescue channel (RC-MA) from the network, the RC-MA including a rescue channel multiple-access synchronization message (RC-MAS) comprising MS identification and handoff information specific to each of the one or more MSs having potentially failing connections and a rescue channel handoff message (RC-HO) comprising a new active set specific to each of the one or more MSs having potentially failing connections for enabling the MSs having potentially failing connections to continue the connections;

monitoring a reverse channel specific to each of the one or more MSs having potentially failing connections in accordance with the MS identification and handoff information;

transmitting one or more forward channels from the network, each forward channel in accordance with the MS identification and handoff information and specific to each of the one or more MSs having potentially failing connections that has received the RC-MA; and

identifying one or more sectors that were receiving a particular MS having a potentially failing connection with a higher signal strength than other sectors, and specifying those one or more sectors in the new active set specific to that particular MS.

24. (Amended) [The method as recited in claim 14, further including ]In a system comprising a network and at least one mobile station (MS) for enabling communications with the at least one MS, one or more MSs capable of receiving a forward multiple-access rescue channel (RC-MA) and continuing connections that have become potentially failing connections, a method for assisting in rescuing one or more MSs having potentially failing connections, comprising:

identifying the one or more MSs having potentially failing connections;

transmitting [the RC-MA]a forward multiple-access rescue channel (RC-MA) from the network from multiple sectors simultaneously, the RC-MA including a rescue channel multiple-access synchronization message (RC-MAS) comprising MS identification and handoff information specific to each of the one or more MSs having potentially failing connections;

monitoring a reverse channel specific to each of the one or more MSs having potentially failing connections in accordance with the MS identification and handoff information; and

transmitting one or more forward channels from the network, each forward channel in accordance with the MS identification and handoff information and specific to each of the one or more MSs having potentially failing connections that has received the RC-MA.

31. (Amended) [The method as recited in claim 26, further including ]In a system comprising a network and at least one mobile station (MS) for enabling communications with the at least one MS, the network capable of transmitting a forward multiple-access rescue channel (RC-MA) including a rescue channel multiple-access synchronization message (RC-MAS) comprising MS identification and handoff information specific to each of one or more MSs having connections with the network that have become potentially failing connections, a method for assisting in rescuing a MS having a potentially failing connection, comprising:

receiving the RC-MA from multiple sectors simultaneously at the MS having the potentially failing connection; and

transmitting a reverse channel specific to the MS having the potentially failing connection in accordance with the MS identification and handoff information.

35. (Amended) [The method as recited in claim 34, further including ]In a system comprising a network and at least one mobile station (MS) for enabling communications with the at least one MS, a method for handing off one or more MSs having a connection with the network prior to detecting a failing connection, comprising:

identifying the one or more MSs in need of handoff;

transmitting a forward multiple-access handoff channel (HC-MA) from the network, the HC-MA including a handoff channel multiple-access synchronization message (HC-MAS) comprising MS identification and handoff information specific to each of the one or more MSs in need of handoff;

receiving the HC-MA from multiple sectors simultaneously at one or more MSs in need of handoff; and

handing off the one or more MSs in need of handoff in accordance with the MS identification and handoff information.

37. (Amended) [The method as recited in claim 36, further including ]In a system comprising a network and at least one mobile station (MS) having connections with the network for enabling communications with the at least one MS, the one or more MSs capable of receiving a forward multiple-access handoff channel (HC-MA) and continuing the connections, a method for assisting in handing off the one or more MSs prior to detecting potentially failing connections, comprising:

identifying the one or more MSs in need of handoff;

transmitting the HC-MA from the network from multiple sectors simultaneously, the HC-MA including a handoff channel multiple-access synchronization message (HC-MAS) comprising MS identification and handoff information specific to each of the one or more MSs in need of handoff;

monitoring a reverse channel specific to each of the one or more MSs in need of handoff in accordance with the MS identification and handoff information; and

transmitting one or more forward channels from the network, each forward channel in accordance with the MS identification and handoff information and specific to each of the one or more MSs in need of handoff that has received the HC-MA.

44. (Amended) [The system as recited in claim 43, the network processor further programmed for ]A system for enabling communications between a network and at least one mobile station (MS) and for rescuing one or more MSs having connections with the network that have become potentially failing connections, the system comprising:

a network having a network processor programmed for

identifying the one or more MSs having potentially failing connections,

transmitting a forward multiple-access rescue channel (RC-MA) from the network, the RC-MA including a rescue channel multiple-access synchronization message (RC-MAS) comprising MS identification and handoff information specific to each of the one or more MSs having potentially failing connections and a rescue channel handoff message (RC-HO) comprising a new active set specific to each of the one or more MSs having potentially failing connections for enabling the MSs having potentially failing connections to continue the connection,

monitoring a reverse channel specific to each of the one or more MSs having potentially failing connections in accordance with the MS identification and handoff information,

transmitting one or more forward channels from the network, each forward channel in accordance with the MS identification and handoff information and specific to each of the one or more MSs having potentially failing connections that has received the RC-MA, and

identifying one or more sectors that were receiving a particular MS having a potentially failing connection with a higher signal strength than other sectors, and specifying those one or more sectors in the new active set specific to that particular MS; and

one or more MSs, each MS having a MS processor programmed for receiving the RC-MA and transmitting a reverse channel in accordance with the MS identification and handoff information if that MS has potentially failing connection.

48. (Amended) [The system as recited in claim 38, the MS processor further programmed for receiving the RC-MA ]A system for enabling communications between a network and at least one mobile station (MS) and for rescuing one or more MSs having connections with the network that have become potentially failing connections, the system comprising:

a network having a network processor programmed for

identifying the one or more MSs having potentially failing connections,

transmitting a forward multiple-access rescue channel (RC-MA) from the network, the RC-MA including a rescue channel multiple-access synchronization message (RC-MAS) comprising MS identification and handoff information specific to each of the one or more MSs having potentially failing connections,

monitoring a reverse channel specific to each of the one or more MSs having potentially failing connections in accordance with the MS identification and handoff information, and

transmitting one or more forward channels from the network, each forward channel in accordance with the MS identification and handoff information and specific to each of the one or more MSs having potentially failing connections that has received the RC-MA; and

one or more MSs, each MS having a MS processor programmed for receiving the RC-MA from multiple sectors simultaneously and transmitting a reverse channel in accordance with the MS identification and handoff information if that MS has potentially failing connection.

49. (Amended) [The system as recited in claim 38, the network processor further programmed for transmitting the RC-MA ]A system for enabling communications between a network and at least one mobile station (MS) and for rescuing one or more MSs having connections with the network that have become potentially failing connections, the system comprising:

a network having a network processor programmed for

identifying the one or more MSs having potentially failing connections,

transmitting a forward multiple-access rescue channel (RC-MA) from the network from multiple sectors simultaneously, the RC-MA including a rescue channel multiple-access synchronization message (RC-MAS) comprising MS identification and handoff information specific to each of the one or more MSs having potentially failing connections,

monitoring a reverse channel specific to each of the one or more MSs having potentially failing connections in accordance with the MS identification and handoff information, and

transmitting one or more forward channels from the network, each forward channel in accordance with the MS identification and handoff information and specific to each of the one or more MSs having potentially failing connections that has received the RC-MA; and

one or more MSs, each MS having a MS processor programmed for receiving the RC-MA and transmitting a reverse channel in accordance with the MS identification and handoff information if that MS has potentially failing connection.

58. (Amended) [The system as recited in claim 57, the network processor further programmed for ]A system for enabling communications between a network and at least one mobile station (MS) and for assisting in rescuing one or more MSs having potentially failing connections, the one or more MSs capable of receiving a forward multiple-access rescue channel (RC-MA) and continuing connections that have become potentially failing connections, the system comprising:

a network including a network processor programmed for

identifying the one or more MSs having potentially failing connections,

transmitting a forward multiple-access rescue channel (RC-MA), the RC-MA including a rescue channel multiple-access synchronization message (RC-MAS) comprising MS identification and handoff information specific to each of the one or more MSs having potentially failing connections and a rescue channel handoff message (RC-HO) comprising a new active set specific to each of the one or more MSs having potentially failing connections for enabling the MSs having potentially failing connections to continue the connections,

monitoring a reverse channel specific to each of the one or more MSs having potentially failing connections in accordance with the MS identification and handoff information,

transmitting one or more forward channels from the network, each forward channel in accordance with the MS identification and handoff information and specific to each of the one or more MSs having potentially failing connections that has received the RC-MA, and

identifying one or more sectors that were receiving a particular MS having a potentially failing connection with a higher signal strength than other sectors, and specifying those one or more sectors in the new active set specific to that particular MS.

62. (Amended) [The system as recited in claim 52, the network processor further programmed for ]A system for enabling communications between a network and at least one mobile station (MS) and for assisting in rescuing one or more MSs having potentially failing connections, the one or more MSs capable of receiving a forward multiple-access rescue channel (RC-MA) and continuing connections that have become potentially failing connections, the system comprising:

a network including a network processor programmed for

identifying the one or more MSs having potentially failing connections,

transmitting [the RC-MA ]a forward multiple-access rescue channel (RC-MA) from multiple sectors simultaneously, the RC-MA including a rescue channel multiple-access synchronization message (RC-MAS) comprising MS identification and handoff information specific to each of the one or more MSs having potentially failing connections,

monitoring a reverse channel specific to each of the one or more MSs having potentially failing connections in accordance with the MS identification and handoff information, and

transmitting one or more forward channels from the network, each forward channel in accordance with the MS identification and handoff information and specific to each of the one or more MSs having potentially failing connections that has received the RC-MA.

69. (Amended) [The method as recited in claim 64, the MS processor further programmed for ]A mobile station (MS) for communicating with a network and for assisting in rescuing the MS when the MS has a connection with the network that has become a potentially failing connection, the network capable of transmitting a forward multiple-access rescue channel (RC-MA) including a rescue channel multiple-access synchronization message (RC-MAS) comprising MS identification and handoff information specific to each of one or more MSs having connections with the network that have become potentially failing connections, the MS comprising:

a MS processor programmed for

receiving the RC-MA from multiple sectors simultaneously at the MS if the MS has a potentially failing connection, and

transmitting a reverse channel in accordance with the MS identification and handoff information if the MS has a potentially failing connection.

73. (Amended) [The system as recited in claim 72, the MS processor further programmed for ]A system for enabling communications between a network and at least one mobile station (MS) and for handing off one or more MSs having a connection with the network prior to detecting a failing connection, comprising:

a network including a network processor programmed for

identifying the one or more MSs in need of handoff,

transmitting a forward multiple-access handoff channel (HC-MA) from the network, the HC-MA including a handoff channel multiple-access synchronization message (HC-MAS) comprising MS identification and handoff information specific to each of the one or more MSs in need of handoff,

monitoring a reverse channel specific to each of the one or more MSs in need of handoff in accordance with the MS identification and handoff information, and

transmitting one or more forward channels from the network, each forward channel in accordance with the MS identification and handoff information and specific to each of the one or more MSs in need of handoff that has received the HC-MA; and

a MS including a MS processor programmed for

receiving the HC-MA from multiple sectors simultaneously at one or more MSs in need of handoff, and

transmitting a reverse channel from the one or more MSs in need of handoff in accordance with the MS identification and handoff information.

75. (Amended) [The method as recited in claim 74, the network processor further programmed for ]A system for enabling connections between a network and at least one mobile station (MS)and assisting in handing off one or more MSs prior to detecting potentially failing connections, the one or more MSs capable of receiving a forward multiple-access handoff channel (HC-MA) and continuing the connections, the system comprising:

a network including a network processor programmed for

identifying one or more MSs in need of handoff,

transmitting the HC-MA from the network from multiple sectors simultaneously, the HC-MA including a handoff channel multiple-access synchronization message (HC-MAS) comprising MS identification and handoff information specific to each of the one or more MSs in need of handoff,

monitoring a reverse channel specific to each of the one or more MSs in need of handoff in accordance with the MS identification and handoff information, and

transmitting one or more forward channels from the network, each forward channel in accordance with the MS identification and handoff information and specific to each of the one or more MSs in need of handoff that has received the HC-MA.